

MILITARY EXPENDITURES AS A PERCENTAGE OF G.D.P. IN NATO—Continued

Country	1985–89, average	2010	Country	1985–89, average	2010
Bulgaria	--	1.7	Belgium	2.7	1.1
NATO—Europe	3.1	1.7	Hungary	--	1.1
Portugal	2.5	1.6	Spain	2.1	1.1
Slovenia	--	1.6	Latvia	--	1.0
Canada	2.1	1.5	Lithuania	--	0.9
Croatia	--	1.5	Luxembourg	0.8	0.5

North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

A crucial reason for this gap is that the United States spends almost as much today as it did during the Cold War. Every other NATO country spends substantially less.

Secretary Gates also made another point about military spending by our allies: they spend much more on personnel and less on equipment than the United States. “The result is that investment accounts for future modernization and other capabilities not directly related to Afghanistan are being squeezed out—as we are seeing today over Libya,” he cautioned.

According to NATO, the United States spends 46.7 percent of its military budget on

personnel. All but five other NATO countries spend more—often considerably more. The average for all NATO countries other than the United States is 56.7 percent of their military budgets spent on personnel, with a number of countries spending two-thirds to three-quarters.

Consequently, there is little money left over for equipment. The United States spends 24.2 percent of its military budget on equipment and only five NATO countries spend more. The average for all NATO countries other than the United States is 16.7 percent of military spending going to equip-

ment, with a number of countries spending less than 10 percent.

But what about our adversaries? Don't we need to maintain a high level of military spending to counter the capabilities of countries like Russia and China?

For those data, we need to look to a different source. According to the latest yearbook from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the standard non-classified source, Russia spent 4.3 percent of its G.D.P. on military outlays in 2009, down from 15.8 percent in 1988; China spent just 2.2 percent of its G.D.P. on the military budget, about the same as it has been since 1989.

MILITARY SPENDING IN SELECTED NON-NATO COUNTRIES, 2009

Country	Spending (mil- lions, \$U.S.)	% of G.D.P.	Country	Spending (mil- lions, \$U.S.)	% of G.D.P.
Australia	18,963	1.9	Japan	51,008	1.0
China	110,100	2.2	South Korea	24,372	2.9
Cuba	2,249	n/a	Libya (2008)	1,100	1.2
Egypt	4,017	2.1	Pakistan	5,039	2.8
India	35,819	2.8	Russia	53,300	4.3
Iran (2008)	7,044	1.8	Saudi Arabia	41,273	11.2
Israel	12,373	6.3	United States	668,604	4.7

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

The institute notes that the United States accounted for virtually all of the increase in world military spending in 2010.

And because the United States has the world's largest economy, its share of world military spending is outsized, accounting for 43 percent of all the military spending on Earth—six times as much as China, which has the world's second largest military budget and accounts for 7.3 percent of world military spending. Russia accounts for just 3.6 percent.

With polls showing declining support for the war in Afghanistan and increasing talk in Congress, even among Republicans, about cutting the military budget, it appears certain that the Defense Department is going to be downsized and our foreign military commitments scaled back in coming years.

This is going to require serious rethinking of what we perceive to be our strategic threats and whether the United States can continue to afford to be the world's peacekeeper.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2011

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2112) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012, and for other purposes:

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to the FY12 Agriculture Appropriations Bill. This measure does not reflect the needs of our constituents, nor the values of our esteemed body.

In Rhode Island, we have the third highest unemployment rate in the nation, and during the past several years our families have dealt with job losses, higher food prices, and turmoil in the housing market.

I have made many visits to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and have seen the great work they and many other wonderful organizations in our state do to help our families. I have spoken with the working families who are not proud to accept this assistance, but have no better option and need to use all resources available to feed their children.

That is why I am disappointed that this measure includes \$2 billion less than the President's request for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP. This measure also cuts the Emergency Food Assistance Program, or TEFAP, by \$12 million.

While my colleagues in the majority have touted cuts in this bill that are fiscally responsible, I would like to highlight what would happen if we cut and not maintain these programs.

Four years ago, the Rhode Island Community Food Bank served 80,000 SNAP beneficiaries. This month, they are serving 162,000 Rhode Islanders.

Four years ago, they served 30,000 Rhode Islanders through TEFAP. Now they serve 60,000.

If these funding levels are signed into law, the impact to the Rhode Island families most affected by the economic downturn will be devastating.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this measure, and support legislation that reflects the needs of our constituents and communities

who are continuing to feel the effects of the recession.

HONORING LOVIE MAE KAZEE

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2011

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Lovie Mae Kazee who will turn 95 on July 1, 2011.

Ms. Lovie Mae Walker Kazee was born July 1, 1916 to Bob and Gertie Walker in Hearne, Texas. She married Lueranze Kazee on November, 3, 1932 in Marland, Texas. They moved to Dallas in 1944, where she began work as the housekeeper and nanny for The Richard Gump family. She served in that capacity for over 50 years. She retired in 1997 to care for her ailing husband who passed away in 1999 after 67 and a half years of marriage.

To this union 10 children, 27 grandchildren, 78 great grandchildren, 138 great great grandchildren and 3 great great great grandchildren have been born. She is blessed to have 5 generations of heirs celebrating her birth.

Ms. Lovie attributes her longevity to living a faithful Christian life, putting God first in all that she does, never drinking alcohol, nor smoking and remaining physically active.

Ms. Lovie has never been sick and remains an active member of Dallas West Church of Christ. She is the last of the original eight founding members of the congregation, which was started in 1947 and presently meets at 3510 North Hampton Road, Dallas, Texas. Elder Sam Berry is the ministering servant.